(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the cargo carrying capacity is less in Boeing aircrafts than in Airbus aircrafts and would affect export of vegetables and fruits to Gulf countries from Kerala; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to see that the cargo carrying capacity is not affected in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. There is no such plan for the present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Civil Aviation Training Institute, Allahabad

742. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for modernization of the Civil Aviation Training Institute at Allahabad;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) by when the modernization of the institute will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sum of Rs. 8.85 crores and 4.97 crores were spent for development and modernization work during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. An amount of Rs. 6 crores has been earmarked for the development works for the year 2007-08.

(c) Modernisation and development is a continuous process depending upon emerging requirements.

Study of increase air traffic

†743. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to increase in traffic, aircrafts have to wait for taking off as well as landing daily;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government undertaken any study on the wastage of time and resources due to this; and

(c) if so, the action plan prepared by Government to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a)-to (c) Yes, Sir. During peak hours aircrafts have to wait for take-off and landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai.

The steps taken to solve this problem are as follows:

(i) New high speed exit taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai airport have been constructed and few more are under construction. A parallel taxi-track has been constructed at Delhi airport by which runway occupancy time has been reduced considerably.

(ii) Simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports has started during the traffic congestion period.

(iii) Improved ATC procedures have been implemented.

(iv) Clearance Delivery Position has been established at Mumbai and Delhi airports.

(v) Restriction on general aviation aircraft movement during peak period at Delhi and Mumbai airport has been imposed.

(vi) ATC Automation System at Delhi and Mumbai is under upgradation.

(vii) Surface Movement Radar has been installed and in operation at Delhi airport.

(viii) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System is under installation at Delhi and under planning for Mumbai airport.

Direct flights to Gaya

744. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to upgrade Gaya airport to international standard in view of Gaya being a very important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists countries;

(b) whether there is any plan to have direct flights to Gaya from Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing; and